

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for the mapping, measurement, and determination of the layer of lubrication on the surface of hard magnetic disks. This is achieved through the use of measurements made with optical instrumentation capable of making a number of measurements based on illuminating the hard disk surface with polarized light which is specularly reflected, analyzed, and recorded. An initial measurement is made of the surface layer of lubricant and then the lubricant is removed and another measurement is made of the surface of the disk. The second scan is then subtracted from the first scan to provide a representation of the lubricant layer.